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ABSTRACT

"The Color of Words" tells the stories of words used in the United States to label ethnic groups or to talk about the social landscape of which ethnic groups are a part. The book defines over 850 ethnic and racial terms and expressions that convey ethnic bias or that are commonly regarded as controversial or confusing. Many entries are supplemented with comments about group stereotypes and their origins, ethnic identities, sociopolitics, and multicultural debates. These comments emphasize that the entries are labels for classifications people make about society, and that these classifications are often made for reasons of manipulation or mischief. Understanding the ethnic words in this collection can expose inequalities and stresses in relations between groups, opening communication and understanding. (SLD)

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